

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-34 and 44-50 are pending as of the notification date of the final office action in the present application. By this paper, claims 2 and 20-22 are amended. Claims 1, 23-43, 45, 46, and 50 are canceled. Reconsideration of claims 2-22, 44, and 47-49 is cordially requested in light of the amendments and remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the allowability of claims 2-22, 44 and 47. Applicants note for the record that they neither agree nor disagree with the specific statements presented in the final office action regarding the reasons for allowance of the claims. Applicants do state, however, that all pending claims constitute allowable subject matter.

Amendments to the Claims

The final office action maintains a number of rejections of the claims presented as of the notification date of the final office action. Applicants disagree with the rejections for a number of reasons, including those presented in Applicants' earlier papers with respect to prosecution of the present application. Nonetheless, Applicants present the claim amendments herein to expedite prosecution of the present application. Such amendments do not, and should not, be construed as a capitulation to the propriety of the rejections. Indeed, Applicants maintain the right to prosecute any former form of the claims presented during the prosecution of the present application in a related application without prejudice.

Claims 2 and 20-22 are amended into independent form, and should include all the recitations from the base claim(s) from which they formerly depended. Claims 20-22 are also amended to strike the words *with light*.

Claims 1, 23-34, 45, 46, and 50 are canceled without prejudice.

Accordingly, these amendments do not introduce new matter.

Art Rejections

Claims 1 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,050,990 to Tankovich et al. ("Tankovich") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,709,654 to Klatz et al. ("Klatz") and U.S. Patent No. 5,114,973 to Hess et al ("Hess"). Since claims 1 and 23 have been canceled, their respective rejections should be rendered moot.

Claims 24-34, 45, 46, and 48-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Tankovich in view of Hess and U.S. Patent 5,955,490 to Kennedy et al. Claims 24-34, 45, 46, and 50 are canceled, obviating their rejections.

With respect to claims 48 and 49, Applicants believe that these claims should also represent allowable subject matter for reasons similar to those supporting patentability of claims 2-22, 44, and 47. Contrary to the statement in the final office action, claims 48 and 49 do not recites applying a chemical inhibitor. Applicants cordially request that the rejections of claims 48 and 49 be reconsidered and removed, allowing the claims to pass to issuance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant if such communication is deemed to expedite prosecution of this application.

In the event that a petition for an extension of time is required to be submitted at this time, Applicant hereby petitions under 37 CFR §1.136(a) for an extension of time for as many months as are required to ensure that the above-identified application does not become abandoned.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 141449, under Order No. 22727-110.

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Respectfully submitted,

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